

RG 263 CIA

RAOUL WALLENBERG FILE

FOLDER 21

Record Set

16 November 1955

F21

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Security

SUBJECT: Mr. Iver C. Olsen, former employee of OSS in Stockholm

1. This office is attempting to determine if Raoul Wallenberg, a member of a prominent Swedish family, who disappeared under peculiar circumstances in Budapest during the fighting late in 1944 was engaged on an OSS mission in any way. The old OSS files reveal little information and three CIA employees who were in Stockholm at that time for OSS could furnish no first hand information on subject.

2. Mr. Iver C. Olsen, for years an employee of the Treasury Department and who was an employee of OSS in Stockholm during this period and currently in business in Washington, D. C., would have personal knowledge of any relations which OSS might have had with Wallenberg.

3. [REDACTED] who is dealing with this matter for the [REDACTED] and who is acquainted with Mr. Olsen would like to ask him if he could shed any light on the question whether Wallenberg was in any way engaged on an OSS mission at the time.

4. Will you please advise this office if there is any derogatory information in your files relating to Iver Olsen which would preclude or make inadvisable [REDACTED]'s making such an inquiry.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

21 SEP 1955

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
 ATTN : [REDACTED]
 SUBJECT : Iver C. OLSEN

1. Reference is made to conversations between [REDACTED] and the writer on the question of querying Subject regarding his connection with Raoul WALLENBERG. Following notification by [REDACTED] that the Security Office had indicated that it had no objection to the writer's interviewing Subject, Subject was telephoned at his office and a meeting was arranged for 1 December 1955.

2. Subject is the Washington representative for the New York investment securities firm of Tripp and Company; his office is located at 805 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

3. At the meeting with Subject on 1 December 1955, our interest in Raoul WALLENBERG was explained to Subject and he was told that we were turning to him for assistance in clearing up a question to which there appeared to be no answer in our files or that of any of our predecessor organizations. Subject indicated his understanding of our interest and his complete willingness to assist.

4. The writer sketched briefly our knowledge of Subject's connection with WALLENBERG, basing this largely on information contained in Raoul Wallenberg - Hero in Budapest, a book in Swedish by Jenö Léval, published in Stockholm in 1946. Subject confirmed the facts, as they pertain to his relationship with WALLENBERG, related in this book. Subject was then asked whether he had at any time had any operational contact with, or made any operational use of, WALLENBERG. Subject replied to both questions with a very firm negative. Subject went on to explain that during his assignment in Stockholm during World War II, he actually worked for three U.S. Government agencies: the Treasury Department, in which capacity he acted as Financial Attache of the American Legation in Stockholm; the War Refugee Board, of which he was the Stockholm representative; and OSS. In the case of OSS, Subject in effect wore three different hats: financial, handling all the finances and accounts of the OSS mission in Stockholm; X-2, interrogating refugees and escapees to Sweden; and SI, procuring intelligence, including dispatching of agents to Norway and to the Baltic area.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
 Date 2-2-56

5. Subject's contact with WALLENBERG was only in his capacity as representative of the War Refugee Board. Subject was extremely emphatic on this point and returned to it on several occasions during the course of the meeting, apparently wishing to insure that there was no misunderstanding on this score. As had been indicated in the book cited above, Subject was instrumental in the selection of WALLENBERG for the mission to Budapest. Following WALLENBERG's assignment to the Swedish Legation in Budapest, WALLENBERG was supplied by Subject with funds solely for the purpose of assisting Jews in Hungary.

6. In explaining the mechanics of funding WALLENBERG in Budapest, Subject said that an account had been opened by the JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC) in the Stockholm Enskilda Bank, Stockholm. The funds in this account were earmarked for WALLENBERG and Subject was authorized to draw on this account. Whenever WALLENBERG indicated, through means of letters pouched from Budapest to the Foreign Office in Stockholm, that he needed funds, Subject withdrew the necessary funds from the account referred to above and would send them to WALLENBERG through Swedish Foreign Office channels. Subject stated that, except for 10,000 Swedish kronor which were given to WALLENBERG, solely for use in connection with refugee work.

7. Following WALLENBERG's disappearance in Budapest, the balance remaining in the account at that time, which according to Subject was fairly considerable, was withdrawn from the account, the account closed and the money returned to the JDC. Subject added that, should any further details or corroboration of the above be desired, he was certain that Mr. Moses Leavitt, Executive Vice-President of the JDC, would be able to supply the desired information. Subject also said that a 3 volume TOP SECRET report on War Refugee Board Activities in Sweden contained all the documentary evidence on Subject's dealings with WALLENBERG; according to Subject, this Agency and the Department of State each hold a copy of this report.

8. In reply to the writer's question, Subject indicated his willingness to discuss this matter further if desired and to answer any questions which the Department of State or the Agency might wish to pose.

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21 December 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. A. Sidney Buford, III
Director, Office of Libraries and
Intelligence-Acquisition

SUBJECT: Information Concerning Raoul WALLENBERG

1. Your memorandum of 3 November 1955, addressed to [REDACTED] Central Intelligence Agency, has been referred to this organization for reply as the Strategic Services Unit is charged with responsibility for liquidating the affairs of the Office of Strategic Services. A thorough review of our files as well as consultation with former officials of the OSS have resulted in the firm conclusion that WALLENBERG was in fact never employed by U. S. intelligence in any capacity. The following background information concerning subject was developed in the course of our research, which, however, may be of assistance to your Department.

2. During World War II WALLENBERG, while in Stockholm, was in contact with Mr. Iver C. OLSEN who was then stationed at the American Legation as Financial Attache, as a representative of the Treasury Department; secondly, as an OSS representative; and thirdly, as Stockholm representative of the War Refugee Board. It is understood that it was solely in this latter connection that WALLENBERG had dealings with OLSEN who was later instrumental in the selection of WALLENBERG for the mission to Budapest.

3. Following WALLENBERG's assignment to the Swedish Legation in Budapest he was supplied by OLSEN with funds for use only in assisting Jews in Hungary. These funds were made available to WALLENBERG through an account opened by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in the Stockholm Enskilda Bank, Stockholm. OLSEN drew on this account whenever WALLENBERG indicated a need for additional funds. The funds were then forwarded through Swedish Foreign Office channels. With the exception of 10,000 Swedish kronor which were given to WALLENBERG from the President's secret fund, all other funds came from the account in Stockholm and were used only in connection with refugee work.

4. Subsequent to WALLENBERG's disappearance in Budapest, the Stockholm account was closed, and the remaining balance, which is understood to have been fairly considerable, was returned to the JDC. Fuller

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documentary details of OLSEN's dealings with WALLBERG are said to be found in a 3 volume TOP SECRET report on War Refugee Board Activities in Sweden, of which your Department is believed to hold a copy.

SIGNED

Executive Officer
Strategic Services Unit